

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFETRACK RESOURCES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lifetrack Resources in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on its 60th anniversary. During the past six decades, Lifetrack Resources has grown from a small charity into one of the largest community-based nonprofits serving families and individuals throughout the Twin Cities region.

Lifetrack Resources was originally founded on September 1, 1948, as the St. Paul Rehabilitation Center to meet the needs of injured veterans returning from World War II and the polio epidemic. In a true collaboration, the Amherst H. Wilder Charity, the Junior League of St. Paul, the MN Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and the board of directors of Family Nursing Service of St. Paul came together to meet the needs of the community. These partnerships have continued through the years, and young children with disabilities received preschool education and both children and adults were provided physical, occupational, and speech therapy services at Lifetrack Resources. Over the years, Lifetrack developed model rehabilitation therapies and employment programs that were expanded through mergers with the Jewish Vocation Service to establish a comprehensive rehabilitation center and the St. Paul Hearing and Speech Center to provide audiology services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. In 2000, St. Paul Rehabilitation Center was renamed Lifetrack Resources to embody the organization's extensive service to the greater Twin Cities area.

Today, Lifetrack Resources provides effective employment services and therapies to a wide-range of adults and children who encounter multiple obstacles to achievement—including those facing some of the most difficult challenges—immigrants and refugees, people with mental illness, individuals with criminal records, and our homeless population. Partnering with community organizations, Lifetrack Resources helps over 11,000 people each year to make positive changes in their lives by providing the skills and support they need, resulting in increased employment and economic opportunities and empowered healthy families. I have seen first hand how the success stories that Lifetrack Resources fosters continue to not only save government funds and improve our economy, but also strengthen our community's health and well-being.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Lifetrack Resources' committed donors, staff, volunteers, community partners, and clients, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the 60th anniversary of Lifetrack Resources.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION ACT OF 2008

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2008. My bill would amend Federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police, FOP, because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that Federal, State, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 616, rollcall No. 617, and rollcall No. 618, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 616, "yes" on rollcall No. 617, and "yes" on rollcall No. 618.

CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA FOR THE EXPROPRIATION OF HALF MOON BAY RESORT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to discuss a regrettable situation which we have been monitoring for some time now.

I am talking about the expropriation of the Half Moon Bay Resort in Antigua, which belonged to a group of American citizens, who developed the property into an internationally recognized vacation destination and have owned it for over 35 years.

The Hurricanes that hit the Caribbean in 1995 severely damaged the resort, making it necessary to negotiate a financial package to rebuild the property. Instead of assisting the owners in that regard, the Government of Antigua saw this as an opportunity to force the owners to sell it—at what would be its lowest value—to certain "friends of the Government". When the owners refused to sell and expressed a determination to rebuild instead, the Government of Antigua responded by repeatedly blocking their efforts to do so.

The Government of Antigua made its first overt attempt to expropriate the property in December 2000. At that time, some twenty

Congressmen and Senators intervened by writing directly to the Prime Minister of Antigua and the Antigua Ambassador in Washington, expressing their concern at such a move. That caused the Government of Antigua to back off for a few months.

However, after a short time, the Government of Antigua returned to its original plan and proceeded to a parliamentary declaration allowing the Government to exercise eminent domain over the property. The owners defended their rights and spent the next six years in litigation—with our State Department doing little more than placing an occasional inquiry with the Government of Antigua as to how they were getting along.

In June of 2007—a year ago—the Privy Council in London reviewed the case brought by the U.S. owners and, taking the lines of our own Kelo Supreme Court Decision one step further, decided that the Government of Antigua had the right of eminent domain to forcibly acquire the property, even when "public purpose" is applied to competing commercial interests. However, the Privy Council also confirmed the owner's right to fair and adequate compensation to be paid within a reasonable time. Now, a year later, the owners have once again had to return to the Courts, for an order compelling the Government to provide that compensation.

By expropriating property belonging to American Citizens and by ignoring the rights of the owners to prompt and fair compensation, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has breached the WTO International Trade and Investment Rules, as well as the Caribbean Basin Initiative and can no longer claim any rights accorded to preferred trading partners.

I hope the government of Antigua and Barbuda understands the impact this may have on their treatment under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and how this totalitarian seizure of private property will affect the future of foreign investment there.

RECOGNIZING SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT WALT GARCIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay special tribute to a dedicated American and true patriot for whose service to this country, first as an Officer in the United States Army and followed by a distinguished career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, we owe our sincere gratitude, Mr. Walter Garcia.

Walt Garcia was born in California to proud and loving parents; mother Tsuyako and father Alfred. He and his three brothers, Joseph, Frank, and Fred, grew up in a happy home, each serving the other, alternately as friend, protector, and part-time antagonist. After graduating high school and earning his degree in Business Administration from San Francisco State University, Walt joined the United States Army where he served for five years and rose to the rank of Captain.

Walt joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1986. His first assignment, as part of the Phoenix Field Division, was as a Special